



Joint Press Release

Aruba, November 6, 1987

Governor Rafael Hernandez Colon of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico made a two hour stop in Aruba at the invitation of its Prime Minister Dr. J.H.A. Eman. Hernandez Colon, flying to Puerto Rico from Venezuela, arrived at "Reina Beatrix" airport at 4:30 PM accompanying the Governor of Puerto Rico, was the Secretary of State, Hector Luis Acevedo; the Secretary of Commerce, Jorge Santiago; the Economic Development Administrator, Antonio J. Colorado; the Secretary of the Consumer Department, Pedro Ortiz Alvarez; the Special Advisor on the Caribbean Basin Initiative, Francisco de Jesus Schuck.

A meeting was held immediately after in the Government Building. After the meeting they authorized the following release:

The Governments of Aruba and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico agree to pursue such measures as shall mutually benefit their tourism industries.

Specifically, the Prime Minister and the Governor agreed to instruct their respective tourism heads to investigate opportunities to include visits to Aruba and Puerto Rico on both existing and future packages to Puerto Rico and Aruba. Thus tourists from Northern Europe and Asia visiting



Aruba would have Puerto Rico included in their package options, and visitors to Puerto Rico from North America and Europe would be encouraged to also visit Aruba as a part of their schedule.

"We believe that tourism is one of many areas where cooperation and coordination can contribute, not only to strengthen bilateral relations between our two governments but also to foster further economic development of our respective countries. We therefore encourage our public and private sectors to work together promoting trade and economic development in the Caribbean", they announced.

The Prime Minister and the Governor also agreed to pursue initiatives in the area of drug enforcement aimed at curtailing the threat that international drug trafficking represents to the Caribbean communities and their people.

They also reviewed the interest of the Government of Aruba in establishing an institution of post-secondary (university) education. Governor Hernandez Colon pledged the support of his government in facilitating this development through, among others, a student exchange program.

The meeting between the two dignitaries contributed to cementing the spirit of cooperative endeavourment which emanated from the Prime Minister's visit to Governor Rafael Hernandez Colon last July.

Prime Minister Eman recognized the positive contribution that the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, under the leadership of Governor Hernandez Colon, has made in fostering economic development throughout the Caribbean Basin.

The Governor of Puerto Rico attested to his esteem for the remarkable progress made by the Government of Aruba, under the leadership of Prime Minister Eman, in overcoming the adverse circumstances caused by the loss of the country's major employer and producer of foreign exchange, some two years ago.

After a brief ceremony at the airport the Governor departed to Puerto Rico.

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